

**LUMPKIN COUNTY  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
*Special Called Meeting*  
**AGENDA**

Wylie's Restaurant  
Public Square  
Dahlonega, Georgia  
February 21, 2007  
6:30 P.M.

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Gooch

**II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**III. NEW BUSINESS**

- Enotah Judicial Circuit
  - Third Judgeship

**IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**V. ADJOURN**

Chairman Gooch

**SPECIAL CALLED MEETING OF THE  
LUMPKIN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

February 21, 2007

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Gooch, Commissioners Raber, Hutcheson, Stowers and Grindle were in attendance at the 6:30 p.m. meeting requested by Superior Court Judge Barrett held at Wylie's Restaurant, on the Public Square in Dahlonega, GA.

**PRESENTATION**

Superior Court Judge Barrett said that his reason for wanting to meet with the commissioners of the counties in the Enotah Judicial Circuit was the issue of supplements to judges. He provided the commissioners with a legislative update stating that circuits must provide at least a \$20,000 supplement to be considered for a new judgeship.

Judge Barrett explained how need for an additional judge is determined and how it is funded. New judges get their own law clerk funded by the state. The district attorney and public defender would each get an assistant also funded by the state. If local governments do not provide a supplement comparable to close by counties the new judgeship and assistants will not be funded. Enotah Judicial Circuit is listed as third in priority for a new judge, behind the Gwinnett and Dublin circuits. A third judge would probably be appointed July 1, 2007. Appointment for a juvenile judge must be made by May 1, 2007 or we will have only a part-time juvenile judge for the next four years.

The judge's proposal is to take the funds provided last year for a secretary and put that money towards the supplements. Although funded no secretary was hired and the funds were not expended. Judge Barrett's concern is that if we do not get the third judge this year we may miss out in the future and could fall below third on the list.

District 27 Representative Doug Collins, who represents Wahoo District in Lumpkin County, gave greater detail regarding the supplements. He explained that there are two judgeships left and the top three counties on the list are competing for them. Judge's salaries have been adjusted up 10% this year, as they had not had an increase since 1999. They did receive COLA increases throughout this time, however. There has been difficulty in keeping judges in some circuits due to salary issues.

Rep. Collins thinks that we should provide a letter stating that they are committed to do "x" should we receive the third judge but he advises against setting too many conditions in the letter. Rep. Collins pointed out that he is aware adding a judge would mean more staff and other expenses to the counties. Rep. Collins said he was assured that the supplement would be weighed along with caseload.

Judge Barrett said that the crossover date in the legislature this year is 30 days, which means we have eight days. If the bill does not cross over before that time it cannot be passed by the legislature this year.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Enotah Judicial Circuit - Third Judgeship

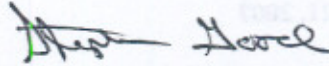
Although Commissioners Gooch, Raber, Hutcheson, Stowers and Grindle were present the meeting was not called to order and no actions were taken.

This matter will be discussed at the Monday, February 26, 2007 9:00 a.m. special called meeting.

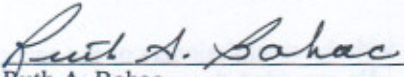


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3-15-2007  
Date

  
Stephen W. Gooch, Chairman  
Lumpkin County Board of Commissioners

Attest:

  
Ruth A. Bohac  
Clerk, Lumpkin County